## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides an image processing apparatus and an image processing method that enable efficient use of code information storage areas and can rapidly process code information to render characters. A character data management unit stores reference information for referencing the shape data of a character indicated by inputted character data in an intermediate code buffer in association with an intermediate code. Thereby, a data amount of the intermediate code buffer is reduced. At the same time, reference information for referencing the intermediate code is stored in a font cache buffer in association with the character shape data. By dint of the mutual reference, when character shape data is to be saved from, e.g., the font cache buffer to the intermediate code buffer, intermediate codes referencing the shape data can be determined from reference information of the character shape data and reference information of the intermediate codes can be modified, so that processing can be performed easily and rapidly.